

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Bridge to Terabithia is a 2007 fantasy drama film. The screen play of this film adapted from the novel with the same title written by Katherine Paterson. Paterson was born in Qing Jing, China. In 1966, she wrote the novel *who Am I*. While continuing to write, she was unable to get any of her novels published. Her first children's novel, *The Sign of the Chrysanthemum*, was published in 1973. A Japanese fairy tale, it is based on Paterson's studies in Japan. *Bridge to Terabithia*, her most widely recognized book, was published in 1977. *Terabithia* was highly controversial due to some of the difficult themes. Some of her other books also feature difficult themes such as the death of a loved one. Her awards include the National Book Award (*Master Puppeteer*, 1976; *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, 1979); the Edgar Allen Poe Special Award (*Master Puppeteer*, 1977); the Newbery Medal (*Bridge to Terabithia*, 1977; *Jacob Have I Loved*, 1981); the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction (*Jip, His Story*, 1996); the Hans Christian Andersen Medal (1998); and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (2006).

Bridge to Terabithia movie is directed by Gabor Csupo, an animator, and screenplay by David L. Paterson and Jeff Stockwell. Gabor Csupo is an animator and co-founder of the animation studio Klasky Csupo, which has produced shows like *Rugrats*, *Duckman*, and *Aaahh!!! Real Monsters*. After four years at the

Pannonia animation studios, fled to the West in 1975. While working in Sweden he met Arlene Klasky, an American-born animator. The two subsequently started their own company, Klasky Csupo, which produced many popular animated television shows. He was credited as animation executive producer and supervising animation director for several episodes of *The Simpsons* in the early seasons before the show switched over to Film Roman. His record label, Tone Casualties, founded in 1994, released several industrial, noise, ambient and experimental music releases, including discs by Holger Czukay, Drew Neumann, Paul Schutze, Borut Krzisnik, Wahorn, Controlled Bleeding and his own works. He also directed two live action films outside of Klasky Csupo: *Bridge to Terabithia* for Walt Disney Pictures, and *The Secret of Moonacre* for Warner Bros. and Lionsgate. The character design of Dr. Nick Riviera (from *The Simpsons*) is based somewhat on Csupo. The animators mistakenly believed the character's voice actor, Hank Azaria, was impersonating Gabor, when in fact the voice was actually a bad imitation of Ricky Ricardo from *I Love Lucy*.

Bridge to Terabithia tells the story of Jesse Aarons and Leslie Burke, twelve-year-old neighbors who create a fictional world called Terabithia and spend their free time together in an abandoned tree house. Jesse Aarons is habitually fearful, angry and depressed. He also has a crush on his music teacher, which plays an integral role in the final events of the story. After meeting, and then ultimately losing, Leslie, Jesse is transformed, in that he becomes courageous and lets go of his anger and frustration. Jesse Aarons, the only boy in

a family of five children, lives in rural southwest Virginia. His mother favors his sisters Brenda, Ellie, May Belle, and Joyce Ann, while his father works in Washington D.C. and therefore spends little time with his children. May Belle, the second youngest sister, adores and admires Jesse. Leslie Burke is an only child who moves from Arlington, Virginia, to the same area as Jesse. Her parents, both writers, and are wealthy. Leslie Burke is an intelligent, talented, imaginative, outgoing girl. Her talents include gymnastics, creativity, swimming, writing, and running. Jesse Aarons thinks highly of her, and they are loyal friends. She is not socially accepted by the other students in Jesse's school, to which she is a newcomer.

Jess and Leslie soon become close friends. Jess shares his secret love of drawing with Leslie, and Leslie shares with Jess her love of fantasy stories. With this new friendship, the two children create an imaginary kingdom in the woods near their homes, accessible only by a rope swing over a creek. They name the kingdom *Terabithia* and declare themselves King and Queen, and they spend every day after school there. In *Terabithia*, they are able to face their real-world fears, such as that of the seventh grade bully Janice Avery.

Leslie gives Jess a drawing pad and a set of watercolors and a tube of paint as a Christmas present, and Jess gives Leslie a dog that she names Prince Terrien or P.T. for short. They consider P.T. to be the royal protector, Prince of *Terabithia* and due to his puppyish antics - court jester. Jesse has a crush on his young music teacher, Miss Edmunds. The central crisis occurs when Jesse accompanies Miss

Edmunds to the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., and Leslie goes to Terabithia alone. The rope breaks as she is swinging over the rain-swollen creek. Though a good swimmer, Leslie falls into the creek and drowns, possibly due to head injury. Jesse can overcome his grief only with the strength and courage that his friendship with Leslie had given him.

He attempts to deal with his grief by going back to Terabithia alone to make a memorial wreath for Leslie. During his ceremony, he hears a cry for help and finds May Belle caught in the midst of a fallen tree that she had been trying to use as a bridge across the creek. He helps her out of danger and rescues her. Leslie's grief-stricken parents soon decide to leave the area. As Mr. and Mrs. Burke are leaving, Jesse asks to take some of their wooden planks from their back porch. They say he may have anything left in the house; thus permitted, he goes down to Terabithia to build a bridge. After he finishes the bridge, he takes May Belle over it and makes her the new Queen of Terabithia. He realizes that while no one could ever replace Leslie, Terabithia must have a Queen and Leslie would agree.

Bridge to Terabithia was made in February, 2006. This film taken for 60 days, which is the setting of place at Auckland, New Zealand. The film runtime is 96 minutes, released in VCD and DVD distributed by Walt Disney Pictures in the US. *Bridge to Terabithia* was released theatrically in the U.S. and Canada on February 16, 2007. The film was a financial success, and with a budget of around \$20 million, it had a worldwide gross of US\$137 million. The film received positive reviews; critics called it a faithful adaptation of the children's novel, and

found dynamic visuals and natural performances further enhanced the imaginative film.

Despite the critical acclaim, not all reviews were as positive. Claudia Puig said that this movie is the power of imagination, *Bridge to Terabithia* is not as clever as you would hope. Claudia Puig called the film a serviceable translation of the novel, but thought the adult characters were caricatured. The reviewer found the real life portions of the movie were derivative and simplistic, but found Jess' emotional tumult felt powerfully authentic, and this is where the film finds its truth and soul. *The Wall Street Journal* critic Joe Morgenstern felt that despite the occasional misuse of enchantment brief spasms of overproduced fantasy the novel's screen adaptation was told with agreeable simplicity in between computer-generated monsters. Morgenstern thought Csupo lacked experience directing actors, and that although Deschanel was the best adult performer, she seemed self-directed. *Entertainment Weekly's* Gregory Kirschling was confused by the main characters' lack of excitement towards Terabithia, and felt the film could not decide if it was a fantasy or coming-of-age story.

Bridge to Terabithia was nominated for seven awards, of which it won five. Josh Hutcherson was nominated at the 2008 Saturn Awards for Best Performance by a Younger Actor. Anna Sophia Robb was nominated for a Broadcast Film Critics Association Award for Best Young Actress. The film won five awards at the Young Artist Awards, including "Best Family Feature Film (Fantasy or Musical). Hutcherson won Best Performance in a Feature Film Leading Young

Actor, Robb won Best Performance in a Feature Film Leading Young Actress, and Bailee Madison won Best Performance in a Feature Film Young Actress Age Ten or Younger. The cast won the award for Best Performance in a Feature Film Young Ensemble Cast, which included Hutcherson, Robb, Madison, Wakefield, Clinton, Lawless, Isabelle Rose Kircher, Carly Owen, Devon Wood, Emma Fenton and Grace Brannigan.

Bridge to Terabithia is an interesting movie; there are three aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is bridge to Terabithia is fantasy drama film. Bridge to Terabithia is artsy, imaginative, fantastical creatures than the typical rendered characters you see in other movies. The second is the act of imagination plays a central role in *Bridge to Terabithia*. Whenever Jess and Leslie encounter difficulties in their real lives, they escape to the fantasy world of Terabithia. But rather than using this fantasy as merely a way out, they use it to work through their problems. A schoolyard bully becomes a menacing troll, for example, and only after facing down that troll are Jess and Leslie able to face down the bully herself. Terabithia allows the protagonists to be themselves, to imagine new possibilities for their real-world lives. After Leslie's death, it is the imaginary land of Terabithia that helps Jess heal and accept the loss. In this film, imagination is not just an escape, but a way to deal with and learn to understand reality (much as the novel itself is an imaginary story meant to help people better understands real themes like this one).

The last is changing behavior of Jesse Aarons which is reflected in *Bridge to Terabithia* is one appealing aspects that is interesting to be studied. Through friendship between Jess with Leslie can make changing behavior to Jess because before he meets Leslie, Jess has habitually fearful, angry and depressed. After he meets Leslie, Jess is transformed; he becomes courageous and let's goes of his anger and frustration. Their friendship is a healthy one, in which they encourage each other to grow and try new things and face their fears.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Bridge to Terabithia* movie by using behaviorism theory. So the writer constructs the title **CHANGING BEHAVIOR OF JESSE AARONS IN GABOR CSUPO'S *BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA* MOVIE (2007): A BEHAVIORIST APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

In this study, the researcher did not find the other researcher in line with *Bridge to Terabithia* movie, so this is the first research paper that conducts *Bridge to Terabithia* movie to be analyzed through Behaviorist approach.

C. Problem Statement

In this study, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The major problem:" How is the changing behavior reflected in Gabor Csupo's *Bridge to Terabithia*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the changing behavior in Gabor Csupo's *Bridge to Terabithia* movie based on behaviorist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Concerning with the problem statements, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze Gabor Csupo's *Bridge to Terabithia* movie based on structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze the changing behavior in Gabor Csupo's *Bridge to Terabithia* movie based on behaviorist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The reason why someone makes a research is to get the benefit from it. By so doing, the writer expects some benefits are produced from this research, those are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to broaden the writer's own comprehension about Gabor Csupo's *Bridge to Terabithia* movie. This study is also expected to contribute to the development of the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Gabor Csupo's *Bridge to Terabithia*.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is dedicated to the development of literary study in Surakarta University, especially students in English Department and to give deeper understanding about the content of the movie especially from a behaviorism approach aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This research applies descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive Qualitative method is a research which employs the method of collecting, describing. Classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Bridge to Terabithia* movie directed by Gabor Csupo and publishing by Walt Disney Pictures in 2007. It is analyzed by using behaviorism approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of the data of this study is text taken from two data sources, namely: primary and secondary.

1. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are from the script of the film *Bridge to Terabithia*; it consists of dialogue, plot, themes, conflicts, and the whole narration, etc, which are relevant to the object of the study.

2. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are taken from some books, websites, and other literary and other matters that support this analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study is the library research. The steps of collecting data are:

- a. Watching the film
- b. Searching the script of the film from internet
- c. Reading the script repeatedly
- d. Marking the point in the script to make easy in analyzing it.
- e. Taking notes of important in both primary and secondary data.
- f. Classifying the data into groups according categories of elements of literary study.
- g. Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant sources, that doesn't have important information to support the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses behaviorism approach and applies it by using the descriptive analysis. In addition, the writer also uses the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly, the researcher is looking for a selecting the correlation of data by using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “Changing Behavior of Jesse Aarons In Gabor Csupo’s *Bridge To Terabithia* Movie (2007): Behaviorism Approach” is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it consists of structural elements of the Movie, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is structural analysis. In this chapter, the writer explains the structural elements and technical elements of the film.